

Air Ambulance Services Informal Workgroup 2007
Discussion Items – Working Document

1. Review the definition of patient transport for possible inclusion of additional activities identified in air ambulance service.

Current Standards:

Section 2 (1)(ee) "Patient transport," for purposes of these standards, means the use of an air ambulance for the transport and treatment of a single patient for an inter-facility transport or a pre-hospital transport. The term does not include use of an air ambulance that does not involve the transport of a patient.

Section 2 (1)(d) "Air ambulance service" means the provision of emergency medical and air medical services by means of 1 or more air ambulances that operate in conjunction with a base of operations. The service shall be capable of providing at least advanced life support services but may include the provision of critical care or specialty care support services. Other functions of the service may include advanced life support intercepts, search and rescue, and emergency transportation of drugs, organs, medical supplies, equipment or personnel. An air ambulance service may operate an additional air ambulance for the purpose of a designated event with the prior notification and approval of the local medical control authority and the Department Division of Emergency Medical Services.

Possible Solutions:

2. Review the definitions of primary and secondary service areas for additional clarification.

Current Standards:

Section 2 (1)(gg) "Primary service area" means the geographic service area that is or will be authorized by an air ambulance service's license and encompasses the area(s) to which the air ambulance service will primarily make pre-hospital transports.

Section 2 (1)(mm) "Secondary service area" means an area in which an air ambulance service will make inter-facility transports or pre-hospital transports, or may operate pursuant to mutual aid agreements.

Data/Statistics:

Assessment of Air Medical Coverage in Michigan	10-Min. Fly Circle	20-Min. Fly Circle	30-Min. Fly Circle
Percentage of square miles within the fly circle. Michigan has 54,446 total square miles.	22.89%	49.25%	66.10%
Percentage of population within the fly circle utilizing 2000 data of 9,938,444.	41.15%	89.71%	95.37%

(Air Medical Journal, July/August 2005)

Possible Solutions:

3. Review the volume requirements for expansion of service and consider allowing expansion of service to a half-time (12-Hour) air ambulance.

Current Standards:

Section 2 (1)(s) "Expand an air ambulance service" means increasing the number of air ambulances operated by an existing air ambulance service from the same base of operations.

Section 4. An applicant proposing to expand an air ambulance service shall demonstrate each of the following:

(a) An average of at least 600 patient transports for each existing air ambulance was made during the most recent 12-month period for which verifiable data are available to the Department.

(b) An applicant shall project, in accordance with the methodology set forth in Section 9, that the number of patient transports to be made in the months 7 through 18 after beginning operation of an additional air ambulance, and annually thereafter, is equal to or greater than 600 multiplied by the existing number of air ambulances plus 200. For example, an air ambulance service with 1 air ambulance shall project that at least 800 patient transports ($600 \times 1 + 200 = 800$) will be made in months 7 through 18 after beginning operation of the additional air ambulance.

(c) An applicant proposes the addition of 1 air ambulance.

(d) An applicant, approved under these standards, shall demonstrate that, at the time an application is submitted to the Department to expand an air ambulance service, an applicant is in compliance with each of the project delivery requirements set forth in Section 8 of these standards, if such application is filed subsequent to 24 months after the date a CON is approved pursuant to these standards.

Implementation Example:

Service expanding to 2 Air Ambulances: 800 pt transports

Service expanding to 3 Air Ambulances: 1,400 pt transports

Possible Solutions:

4. Review the volume requirements to replace an air ambulance.

Current Standards:

Section 2 (1)(kk) "Replace an air ambulance" means either: an equipment change which results in an air ambulance service operating an air ambulance, other than a back-up air ambulance, with a different aircraft manufacturer's serial number, and an applicant operating the same number of air ambulances before and after project completion at the same base of operations; or the renewal of a lease.

Section 5. An applicant proposing to replace an existing air ambulance shall demonstrate either of the following, as applicable:

(a) An air ambulance service that operates 1 air ambulance shall demonstrate that at least 275 patient transports were made in the most recent 12-month period for which verifiable data are available to the Department.

(b) An air ambulance service that operates 2 or more air ambulances shall demonstrate that the number of patient transports made in the most recent 12-month period for which verifiable data are available to the Department was equal to or greater than the number of patient transports required in Section 4(b) applicable to the number of air ambulances operated by an applicant.

(c) An applicant proposing to replace an air ambulance that does not involve a renewal of a lease shall demonstrate that the existing helicopter to be replaced is fully depreciated according to generally accepted accounting principles, or that the replacement helicopter offers significant technological improvements which enhance safety or quality of care, increases efficiency, or reduces operating costs.

(d) An applicant, approved under these standards, shall demonstrate that, at the time an application to replace an air ambulance is submitted to the Department, an applicant is in compliance with each of the project delivery requirements set forth in Section 8 of these standards, if such application is filed subsequent to 24 months after the date a CON is approved pursuant to these standards.

Implementation Example:

Service with 1 Air Ambulance: 275 pt transports

Service with 2 Air Ambulances: 1,400 pt transports

Service with 3 Air Ambulances: 2,000 pt transports

Possible Solutions: